Jack and the Magical Portal

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Jack and the Magical Portal

by lefemmerouge

Summary

In the rousing conclusion to this part of the series, Jack makes a bold move to go back in time and defeat Aku. But, in the process, is he leaving his newfound friends behind? Is he being foolhardy or hasty? Only time will tell...

Notes

A revised/updated version of this fic was been posted on Squidge World entitled "Jack, the Diamonds, Mind Control, and a Magical Portal". The changes made there were reposted here on 12/15/24, overwriting the previous flawed text.

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update on 6/13/25: Slightly changed some text and added some new tags. When I originally wrote this, I don't remember there being tags for the Whispering Woods. I hope that more tags will help people find this fic going forward.

See the end of the work for more notes

After resting the previous night in the Whispering Woods, Jack, Bow, Glimmer, and Adora got up early. They continued walking.They hoped that what they had learned from the library, run by Bow's dads, could be useful in helping Etheria as a whole. Since it was daybreak, they were unsure they could help anyone, anywhere, at that time. After walking so much, they wanted to rest and relax. However, this was unlikely due to the trials and tribulations which lay aheadahead.

Suddenly, a tremor shook the ground. Cracks started forming. They ran out of the Whispering Woods in terror. Unlike the others, Jack somehow sensed that an otherworldly portal was opening. He ran in the direction his inner compass directed him. He ran toward one of the most terrifying places on the planet: the Fright Zone. The tremors were the strongest there. It was a polluted area, sitting on a barren wasteland, littered with broken-down machines and old technology. Compared to the rest of the planet, it looked very unnatural. When they saw him running *toward* there, Bow, Glimmer, and Adora shrieked in horror. They warned him to slow down, but he *refused* to do so. There was no stopping his quest to return to Earth and defeat Aku once and for all. It had been his life's mission

When they had finally caught up to him, he was nowhere to be found. They inferred that he had gone deep into the Fright Zone itself. Adora was most concerned, since she knew the Fright Zone the best out of anyone, as she had grown up there. "Where did Jack go? It's *not saf*e for him here! If they capture him, it's game over! They could manipulate him and turn him against us."

Although going into the Fright Zone made her uncomfortable, she agreed with Bow and Glimmer: they had no other choice. After all, friends stick together, through thick and thin. There wasn't much time to form a plan, which annoyed Adora without question. She wished there was *someone* out there who understood her need for organization and order, even as a fighter of the Rebellion. While Bow and Glimmer did fulfill these characteristics, she would meet such a person but not until sometime later when they accidentally arrived in Bright Moon with their group of friends. However, the need to delve into a possible future rather than the reality wasn't a luxury they could afford.

Jack ran breakneck speed through the Fright Zone. He easily slashed guards left and right with his magical sword. They stood no chance against him. Soon enough he was in Hordak's inner sanctum, as some caledl it. As he entered, Entrapta, the (ex?)princess who had joined the Horde, greeted him with a friendly, and warm, smile. Hordak was nowhere in sight. "Hello, fellow traveler, what brings you here?"

Jack explained how he accidentally come to Etheria through a portal, which sent him across dimensions. He only wanted to go back in time. Entrapta was fascinated. She remarked that he must have been the person she detected as arriving in the Crimson Waste. It *intrigued* her that Jack came from another world. She wanted him to tell her *everything.*

Jack began to tell her his life story, respecting her as an intelligent, although hyperactive, person who was kind to everyone she met. Just then, Adora, Bow, and Glimmer burst into the room. They told Jack not to listen to her, reminding him that she was on "the side of evil" and had *no conscience* whatsoever. At the same time, Entrapta began speaking about her

discoveries on the First One's technology. She even told them she *knew* about a computer system that had been created by the First Ones. Each of them nodded in agreement. She told them, once again, as she had said in the past, that she was *happy* in the Fright Zone and had no reason to return to Dryl or re-join the princesses. This obviously dismayed Adora, Bow, and Glimmer, but they still accepted her choice, even though they profoundly disagreed with it.

Jack was not moved by pleas from Adora, Bow, and Glimmer that Entrapta embodied the evil they were fighting. He saw a kind and lonely 30-year-old woman with a positive outlook on life, dedicated to pursuing knowledge and discoveries through her experiments and research. It filled him with joy to meet someone thrilled with learning new information, although she seemed a bit obsessive in this regard. Even so, he could see that her dedication meant she cared little about morality. As such, she would *not* recognize that her work could hurt others. In a thundering voice, he told the rest of them his intentions and why he had come there. "This woman created a portal which *I will use* to go across dimensions and back in time to defeat Aku. What issues you have with her is your business. I see an opportunity and I am going to take it!"

Entrapta gladly appreciated the enthusiasm. However, his intention to use the portal deeply concerned her. The portal was nowhere near complete. It had a high potential of error in the process of dimensional, or even time, travel. In a distressed tone, she directly addressed Jack. "I appreciate you would like to use the portal I made, but it is not ready. The possibility of error is astronomical. I recommend you not use this portal and find some other way to get home. I'm sorry I cannot help you, Jack...I really am."

Stubborn as ever, Jack insisted on using it. Entrapta felt obliged to help this fellow traveler despite her reservations about the portal's safety. Adora, Bow, and Glimmer screamed as the portal opened, throwing them across the room. It was too late to stop Jack from using it. If the portal tore him torn apart into 1,000 tiny pieces, all they could do was...watch. They felt that his determination had got the *better of him* and that rationality had completely slipped his mind.

Jack stepped into the portal. He wished them all goodbye and bowed. He told Adora, Bow, and Glimmer that their assistance to helping him fulfill his quest/mission would not be forgotten. The portal whirred. He disappeared in the blink of an eye. Afterward, the nearby speakers let out a harsh, and horrid, warning sound. Something had gone wrong. Bow asked her what had happened. "Entrapta, what is happening to the portal? Can it be stopped? Is Jack ok?"

She lamented that nothing could be done other than shutting down the whole portal. That would be dangerous since Jack was *still* inside the dimensional gateway. She noticed a major error: the portal was transporting Jack through dimensions, but the ability for time travel wasn't working. While she couldn't predict where he would end up, she guessed it wouldn't be where he wanted.

Little did Entrapta know but the portal had tapped into a channel of sorts from Etheria to Homeworld, where the Diamond overlords lived out their lives. They remained shaken from what had transpired when Steven Universe and the other Gems had come to change their

minds. Jack was thrown out of the portal and right into the Diamond throne room. Yellow, Blue, and White Diamond looked at him with interest. At this point, Entrapta had closed the portal on her side, so there was no going back to Etheria. Jack stood before three giant beings on a planet foreign to him.

As he looked up at the Diamonds, unsure what to do. White Diamond, the most domineering of them, began to speak. She wanted to know why he had come there. "Starlight, what brings you to our chambers? We were not expecting a visitor here so soon after our last ones... left with a bang."

He told them how he used a portal on a distant planet, hoping it would send him across dimensions, and back in time. But it had failed. The portal had malfunctioned, sending him there. As he stood before them, ready to draw his sword in self-defense, the Diamonds announced that they had to excuse themselves. They told him they would be back in a minute.

In private, White, Blue, and Yellow discussed what to do. Blue had an idea: contact Steven, a human-gem hybrid with Pink Diamond's gem, since they were all family. They readied their transmission and broadcast it to Earth.

Back on Earth, Steven felt his Diamond communicator, which the Diamonds had given to him after they had healed the corrupted Gems, vibrating. As he opened it, a video message by Blue Diamond began playing. "Steven, a human arrived here on Homeworld. He calls himself Jack and tells us he wanted to go back to Earth to fight this being he named Aku. We have no record of anything of the sort, so we hoped that if you found the portal he speaks of, the Diamond communicator we gave you can be used to triangulate its connection, so he can go back where he belongs."

Steven nodded in agreement. He went back to his daily chores of cleaning up the wreckage from the Gem battle near Beach City after Garnet's wedding. He quickly forgot about this message and went on with the rest of his day.

Back on Homeworld, Yellow Diamond began asking Jack questions. Her interest was in the distant planet he spoke of. She saw it as a problem that should be dealt with because others could come through a portal. This needed to be nipped in the bud. Jack began talking about where he had been. "I accidentally came to Etheria through a sort of dimensional drift. The armies of evil, calling themselves the Horde, recruited this technologically savvy woman to build a portal, new weapons, and technologies for them. They were fighting against this group of princesses and other rebels, trying to restore balance and order to the planet."

White Diamond was intrigued. The names "Etheria" and "Horde" rang a bell. She did not have a new Pearl since *her* Pink Pearl, formerly under her mind control, no longer served her. White asked Blue for a favor, to ask her own Pearl to look up these words in the Diamond Authority Archives, known as DAA for short. She complied. Her Pearl, Blue Pearl, bowed. She then remarked: "My Diamond, I will complete this task forthwith."

What she uncovered confirmed White's suspicions. Pink had reported about the planet years ago, describing it in detail, with entries not only about the abundant life there, in hopes that

the planet becomes another one of her colonies, but noted an evil force called the Horde. Other records showed that the Horde knew about the Diamonds and had amassed a fleet near the planet of Horde Prime, searching planet after planet for the Diamonds so they could be unquestioned conquerors of the universe. They wanted to end them and they had the firepower to do so.

White, Blue, and Yellow were enraged. They would not allow such a force to one-up them and challenge them. That was *unacceptable*! This force needed to be dealt with once and for all. Thanks to their efforts in conquering planets on their own, the Diamonds had their own impressive fleet of warships that could be easily readied for battle.

Even so, it seemed unlikely that Jack would fight alongside, or even lead, their forces. Using their powers, they all directed their energy at him. He tried to block them with his sword. He failed. They succeeded in putting him under their mind control. He still was excellent samurai warrior *but* under their control. Although Steven had the Diamond communicator, Yellow Pearl, at the request of Yellow Diamond, remotely activated it. This device, little did Steven know, was configured in such a way that when it passed through a portal, the location of the Horde fleet would be revealed. While such a strategy did not have a sure chance of success, it seemed probable considering that the portal sat on Etheria. To ensure that Steven and his Gem friends would visit in the near future, they implanted a memory into Lion's mind so that he would warp them to Etheria next.

Once they had the location, the Diamond fleet *could immediately* warp their ships there and catch the Horde fleet by surprise, destroying it in one single blow. The threat to the Diamonds would be smashed. No one except them would know. They would not be sharing this with Steven because he would not only oppose it, but would feel they hadn't really changed their minds. They would seem to be power-hungry and imperialistic, wanting to expand their empires without any thought of the consequences. On the other hand, such a battle was, from the perspective of the Diamonds, an act of self-preservation *rather* than an imperialist venture.

Back on Etheria, Adora, Bow, and Glimmer stood in front of Entrapta, demanding to know what happened to Jack. She explained that he arrived in another dimension, but not on Earth. By her calculations, she remarked, he was safe and sound, although he hadn't arrived where he wanted. They could hear Hordak's footsteps coming down the hallway.

As the sounds of his shoes hitting the floor got closer, they told Entrapta that she couldn't reveal anything about this to Hordak *under any circumstances*. She agreed, since this test was a failure. Revealing that the portal had been operating with goal different from assisting the Horde would cause Hordak to immediately distrust her and cut her off from any supplies she needed in future experiments. In the nick of time, Adora, Bow, and Glimmer teleported out of Hordak's inner sanctum and into the hangar bay. Without anyone noticing, they proceeded to steal a skiff, riding it to the edge of the Whispering Woods. They jumped off, exploding it to destroy evidence of their escape. From there, they set off to Bright Moon, so they could attend an upcoming war council meeting, where they would tell everyone else about Jack's disappearance and plan their next moves against the Horde.

In the Fright Zone, Hordak approached Entrapta, asking why she wasn't asleep at this late hour. She lied by omission, although he didn't know that, cheerfully talking about her progress on the portal and how it would soon be ready. Hordak smiled creepily and praised her for such work. "Thank you for sticking with this project. Soon, I hope, I will be able to send a message to Horde Prime so they can dispatch their fleet here. Then the Rebellion can be wiped out once and for all. I will be hailed as *a hero* by the rest of the Horde rather than an outcast and an upstart."

Back in the Whispering Woods, Adora, Bow, and Glimmer continued walking until they were too tired. They fell asleep in a nearby clearing, resting for the night, and would continue their trek to Bright Moon the following day.

After waking up at an early hour, they started walking through the Whispering Woods. By mid-afternoon, they had almost reached the sparkling kingdom of Bright Moon. They were just in time for the war council meeting. Bow and Adora walked into the room, beat from their journey. Sitting down in their chairs, each of them told everyone of Jack's disappearance and the existence of a portal in the Fright Zone.

This worried Angella, especially, since Glimmer did not come with them into the room. As she started to ask about her daughter, Glimmer ran in, recharged by the moonstone. She was more than excited for the meeting. Unsurprisingly, Angella chided her daughter on such reckless behavior. "You were in the Fright Zone...again? You could have gotten hurt! You need to be more careful next time! We can't always mount a rescue mission to save you...like we did last time...when you were *corrupted* by Shadow Weaver!"

Glimmer understood her mom's concern. She hugged her and reassured her that she was okay. She turned around, telling everyone they needed to come with a plan to defeat the Horde once and for all. Little did anyone know, in no time at all, a group of strangers would warp into the room from another planet, surprising them all, and leading to a whole new set of adventures...

End Notes

I wrote this because I want to connect my two stories together into one story, which flows together. The pages on Entrapta and the Fright Zone on the She-Ra fandom were helpful in writing this narrative. Similarly, the pages on Pink Pearl and Blue Pearl on the Steven Universe fandom also provided necessary context which was incorporated into this story.

Please drop by the Archive and comment to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!